ming rate. In 1980 it was 24550. In December 1985 it has increased, as stated by the Minister, to 119606. Out of this figure only 8569 units have been made viable. More than 19065 are not found viable. What is the reasons for this abnormal position? Is there any fraud or grave irregularity in borrowing the loan in the name of starting the industries? That is number one.

Number two, in Tamil Nadu more than 6 textile mills are classified as sick units——like the Vasantha Mills, Janardhna Mills etc. The Government of Tamil Nadu requested the Centre to take over these mills by the Textile Corporation, but it was not accepted. Then the Government of Tamil Nadu asked for aid from the Government under the Gujarat pattern. That was also negatived. Now the Government has constituted the Board for Industial Finance Reconstruction to deal with the sick units effectively. Will the Government consider our case favourably?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: I have already said there is no question of taking over any sick units. About Tamil Nadu, it is one of the topmost States for the sick industries. In Tamil Nadu there are 50 large units which are sick. The investment is in terms of Rs. 189.64 crores. For the small scale sector, the figure is 15,171 and the investment is Rs. 107.71 crores.

श्री शंकर सिंह वाघेला : क्या सभापति महोदय, इसमें बीमार यूनिटों की बात नहीं है, सरकार की नीति भी बीमार है।

श्री अश्विनी कुमार : सरकार भी बीमार है।

श्री शंकर सिंह वाघेला : चैयरमैन सर, सरकार दवा देती है, दुआ नहीं देती है, और यह जो सिकनैस हुई बैंक नेशनलाइजेशन के बाद, तो क्या सरकार राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक के अधिकारी या राज्यों के जो फाइनेंशल इंस्टीट्यूशन्स हैं, जिनसे इंडस्ट्रियलिस्ट्स सब्सिडी या दूसरे लाभ लेने के लिये लोन लेकर यूनिट्स स्टार्ट करते हैं और उसके बाद यूनिट को धक्का मार कर उस अफिसर को 2 प्रतिशत कमीशन लोन के हिसाब से देता है, तो सरकार नेशनलाईज्ड बैंक के अफिसर या स्टेट के कितने फाइनेंशल इंस्टीट्यूशंस हैं, इसके लिये क्या कोई चैयरमैन जिम्मेदार होंगे, सरकार ऐसी कोई नीति तय करेगी ?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: As already mentioned, Government is not a hospital for giving admission to the sick units.

About the guidelines, I mentioned about banks. The Reserve Bank is monitoring and the various banking institutions are monitoring about the sick units.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question. No. 63.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Sir, it is a very important question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: In the opinion of the Chair, there has been sufficient discussion on this question. Now Question No. 63.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: There can be half-an-hour ddiscussion later on.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You ask for it. I will consider it.

Rise in the prices of truck tyres

*63. SHRI N.E. BALARAM:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:†

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an unprecedented rise in the prices of truck tyres in the market recently;

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Gurudas Das Gupta.

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government had held discussions with the representatives of the tyre manufacturers, the tyre dealers and the All India Motor Transport Congress on this problem; and

(d) if so, what are the details of the discussions held and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) There has been an increase in the market prices of truck tyres in recent months. The details of the price rise in respect of the Tyre sizes 1000x20/16PR Nylon and 900x20/16PR Nylon are given in the enclosed statements. [See Appendix CXLII, Annexure No. 13] It would be seen therefrom that the price rise is much more in the case of tyres of 1000x20 size.

(c) and (d) Government have discussed the situation with the representatives of the Tyre Manufacturers, All India Motor Transport Congress and the All India Association of State Road Transport Undertakings. The manufacturer's Association has been asked to rush supplies of Tyres of these sizes to markets where the prices are showing an upward trend. The Government are keeping a close watch on the situation.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: The point is, there has been unprecedented increase in the prices of tyres in the country. To give one example, the price of the most popular variety of tyre has increased by Rs. 385. As you know, an increase in the price of tyres increases transport cost and it has its effect on the inflationary situation in the country. Therefore it is very urgent that some steps are taken to curb the situation. Everybody knows that the increase in prices is not entirely due to fall in tyre production in the country. I do not want to go into details. One of the important factors for the increase in prices is the price manipulation and indiscipline in the industry. Again it brings us to the problem of corruption. Therefore, my question to the Minister is: How is he going to discipline the industry and curb the price manipulation in the case of tyre industry?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, we have received complaints on increase in the truck tyres, not other tyres. As far as this is concerned, we have called the Association, we have had a dialogue with them and, after the dialogue, the price has started declining.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, it is very interesting....

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. He controverts your statement. He says the price is declining.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: It is interesting to note that the Minister does not say to what extent it has declined. It may have decreased by one paisa. Anyway, this is how the Ministers answer a question. My second supplementary is this: To curb the price rise it is important that we increase the supply of tyres, and to increase the supply of tyres we can increase the production in the domestic sector and, secondly, we can import tyres from outside. My supplementary will be on the question of domestic increase of production. What is the Government thinking of to increase the production—because there are two units closed at the moment? One is the Goa unit of MRF and the other is the Bombay unit of Modis. Do the Government consider that the opening of the closed units is necessary and if they consider it

so, what is the step? Then, part (b) in relation to this: There is a public sector undertaking which is known as the Tyre Corporation of India. It is thoroughly mismanaged. Even some days back there was no full-time Chairman.

MR. CHARMAN: Time up; time is over.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Therefore, my question is, do the Government consdier taking steps to revamp the Tyre Corporation of India and reopen the closed units and, if they do consider so, what are the steps?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Sir, I entirely agree with the Member that recently there has been an increase in the price of truck tyres. How we are discussing it with the consumers and the managements also to bring down the price. Also, there is a shortfall. Two units are closed because of labour throuble: one is the MRF unit at Goa and another is the International Tyres at Bombay. Because of the shortfall we are now considering that if necessary we will go in for imports also. We are telling the tyre manufacturers that if they do not listen to Government, we will certainly try to import. We are thinging on those lines also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is anything wrong with your Tyre Corporation?... (*Interruptions*)...I am asking the Minister. It is your question.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: That is not a specific question. He asked about the Tyre Corporation. If he wants he can put a question.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : माननीय सभापति जी, मैं ट्रक से थोड़ा सा जोड़कर ट्रेक्टर पर प्रश्न पछना चाहता हूं किसान का ट्रैक्टर की कीमत बहुत है। ट्रक तो रोज कमाता हैं इसलिये मीट आउट भी करता है। लेकिन जो किसान ट्रैक्टर चला रहा है उसका दाम भी बढ़ा हुआ है टायर का दाम बहुत बढ़ा हुआ है। दाम पहले भी अधिक था और आज भी अधिक है। तो सरकार क्या इस बात पर विचार करेगी किसानों को रियायत देने के लिये कि ट्रैक्टर के टायर के दाम अधिक न बढ़े और जो बढ़े हुए हैं वह तो कम हों ?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Sir, there is no complaint about tractor tyres or other varieties. Only about truck tyres there is a complaint. We are discussing it with manufacturers and the consumers also...(*Interruptions*)... We shall try to bring down the prices. We are discussing it with the manufacturers. We shall try to bring down these prices.

श्री सत्यपाल मलिक : श्रीमन्, यह जो टायर निर्माताओं का हाल है यह बहुत खराब है। मेरी जानकारी के अनुसार माननीय नारायण दत्त तिवारी जिस वक्त उद्योग मंत्री थे इन्होंने बहुत डांटा था और यह कोशिश की थी कि इस पर कंट्रोल हो क्योंकि जो टायर हैं इसका दाम जब बढ़ता है तो यह आम आदमी की जेब से जाता है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि गत दो सालों में कितने उपभोक्ताओं ने टायर के दाम बढ़ने की शिकायत की है और कितनी अपने ट्रक निर्माताओं से इस सिलसिले में बात की है और उनकी क्या कठिनाई है कि वे सरकार के बार-बार चेतावनी देने के बावजूद दामों पर नियन्त्रण नहीं रखते हैं ?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: I am not really saying no to this question, Sir. He is correct. There is a lot of increase. Mr. Tiwari was the Industries Minister also. He invited all the people. They agreed to reduce the prices. We are discussing with them. The whole problem is, the tyre industry is in the hands of four of five big business houses. They are trying to dictate. That is why we are giving licences. Central Government has given a licence to the Punjab Government. Another is coming up in Orissa. There is another in Andhra Pradesh. We are encouraging additional investment, Sir.

श्री सुरेन्द्र सिंह ठाकुर : माननीय सभापति जी मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि सरकारी क्षेत्रों में ट्रक टायरों की इण्डस्ट्री बहुत कम है, जिसकी वजह से ट्रक टायरों की कीमतें बहुत बढ़ी हुई है, तो क्या इस क्षेत्र में नई इण्डस्ट्री खोलने के लिये सरकार कोई ध्यान दे रही है ताकि इस तरह से ट्रक टायरों की कीमत कम करने की कोशिश की जाय ?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Sir, I have already answered this question. At present the industry is in the hands of big business houses. To remove their control we are encouraging the State Govrenments. The Andhra Pradesh Government is going to set up a factory. So also Orissa. Recently we gave a licence to the Punjab Government. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, do not look at the Members. Look at the Chair.

Foreign collaborations by ONGC and OIL

*64. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH†
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the countries with which the ONGC and Oil India Limited has been collaborating in obtaining technical know-how for drilling operations for purposes of locating oil and natural gas during the last 3 years;

(b) what are the terms and conditions of these collaborations;

(c) what is the amount of foreign exchange expenditure incurred by ONGC and OIL during the last 3 years on this account; and

(d) what are the results of the collaborations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (d) Statement is laid down the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) to (d) Oil India Limited (OIL) did not have collaboration with any foreign country in obtaining technical know-how for drilling operations during the last three years.

During the last three years, ONGC had entered into contracts with the following foreign agencies in USA, France and USSR:

USA: The services of M/s. Gilley & Associates have been hired for providing consultancy services in the area of drilling. The contract is valid upto November, 1988. An amount of US $3,22,720 has been paid to them upto March 1987, for the services rendered by them.

France: A contract was awarded to M/s. Horwell for providing consultancy services for drilling two horizontal wells in Bombay High, which have been completed in March. 1987. An amount of US $ 12,53,808 has been paid to them.

USSR: Under the Indo-Soviet Joint Protocol, experts from M/s. Techno Export and other agencies of USSR are providing assistance in drilling under the intensive integrated exploration turn key project in identified areas in Cambay and Cauvery basins. The financing of this turn key project is under the 1000 million Rouble Credit extended by the USSR in terms of the agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation between the two countries. Soviet experts are also engaged in the Institute of Drilling Technology for development of different drilling variables, prevention and control of mud-loss, gas, oil and water shows and blow

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Bir Bhadra Pratap Singh.